

Serial No. 09/991,466  
Reply to Office Action of March 3, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) A method of chemical-mechanical polishing for forming a shallow trench isolation, wherein a substrate having a plurality of active regions, including a large active region and a small active region, is provided, comprising:
- forming a silicon nitride layer on the substrate;
  - forming a shallow trench between the active regions;
  - forming an oxide layer over the substrate, so that the shallow trench is filled therewith;
  - removing a rectangular-profiled portion of the oxide layer laterally bounded by [[on]] a central part of the large active region, whereas the oxide layer remains on an edge part of the large active region and on the small active region having a substantially uniform height ~~maximum thickness~~; and
  - planarizing the remaining oxide layer until the oxide layer within the shallow trench has substantially the same level as the silicon nitride layer.
5. (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the oxide layer is formed by high density chemical vapor deposition.
6. (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein a partial reverse active mask is formed to etch the central part of the oxide layer on the active region.

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7. (original) The method according to claim 4, wherein the oxide layer is planarized by chemical-mechanical polishing.
8. (currently amended) A method of chemical-mechanical polishing for forming a shallow trench isolation, wherein a substrate having a plurality of active regions, including a large active region and a small active region, is provided, comprising:
  - forming a silicon nitride layer on the substrate;
  - forming a shallow trench between the active regions;
  - forming an oxide layer over the substrate, so that the shallow trench is filled therewith;
  - forming a partial reverse active mask on the oxide layer, whereas the oxide layer on an edge part of the large active region and on the small active region are covered by the partial reverse active mask;
  - etching a rectangular-profiled portion of the oxide layer laterally bounded by a central part of the large active region, using the partial reverse active mask as a mask such that the oxide layer has a substantially uniform height ~~maximum~~ thickness; and
  - planarizing the oxide layer until the oxide layer within the shallow trench has substantially the same level as the silicon nitride layer.
9. (original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the oxide layer is formed by high density chemical vapor deposition.
10. (original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the oxide layer is planarized by chemical-mechanical polishing.

Claims 11-16. (canceled)